

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale

Draft Minutes

Sept. 15, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Keene Public Library

Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson, Swanzey; Carl MacConnell, Marlow; Gus Merwin, Marlow; Pablo Fleischmann, Gilsum; John Davis, Surry; Jim Holley, Keene; Chuck Mills, Swanzey; Christopher John, Winchester.

I. Minutes: Minutes from August 18, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Marlow reps will post approved ARLAC minutes monthly on town website.

II. Projects:

1. West St. Hydro--Our comments have been sent to FERC. NH Fish & Game as well as NH DES comments also filed with FERC. All available on FERC website.
2. River monitoring-- 7 of 11 towns sent money. We need somebody to review and analyze data. Christopher thought he could help with developing charts.
3. River clean up September 25, 26. We have canoes available through Kev's Kayaks and the Ashuelot River Campground. Chuck will check with Pilgrim Pines.
4. Project to protect drinking water sources plan yet to be started. Andrew Madison may contact members for suggestions for town participants.
5. Falls Brook - more information needed for wetlands application filed 7/30.
6. The Nature Conservancy asked for an additional letter of support to be submitted for Moose Plate funding. Committee agreed to send.

III. Permits

1. Keene-Swanzey wetlands, NHDOT rail trail bridge, no permit decision yet.
2. Washington – Beam- shoreland application. Gus and Carl visited the site with no apparent issues seen. 26.6% of the property will be impervious, our concern is for the stormwater management. There are no drawings showing construction of the drip line trench around the garage, and we are uncertain if it will be adequately compensation. Also the shed which appears as adjacent or on the leach field would concentrate run-off from the shed onto the leach field.
3. West Swanzey Park—
 - a. When the dry hydrant was constructed in 2013, the bank was not properly stabilized and erosion occurred in 2 areas. The town attempted repair with the final attempt being granite blocks. There is no permit covering this repair. Also, vegetation along the bank has been cut exposing soil. Barbara, acting as a concerned citizen, asked Selectmen for comprehensive management to correct what may be wetlands/shorelands infractions. Sara Carbonneau, the town planner has been assigned the task of coordinating permitting issues.
 - b. NH DES made a site visit after contact from the town and stated the granite blocks need to be removed and the bank allowed to revegetate. ARLAC will not take any formal action at this time but will continue to watch the site.

IV. Meetings

1. Conte Refuge Management Plan-- informational/open house, Sept. 17; formal public hearing, Nov 5; both Keene Library 6-8pm.
2. Draft Report of the Instream Flow Pilot Program – Pub Hearing, Sept. 22, 9:30-11:30 AM, LOB Room 305/307
3. Power of Water Power of Words, KSC, Alumni Center, Centennial Hall. Oct. 5, 7 – 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk